(c) the definite time frame for introduction of the remaining four train services for Orissa, as announced in the Railway Budget 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Out of the five new trains to be introduced for Orissa, two trains have already been introduced. The remaining three trains would be introduced during the current financial year 2001-2002 as soon as coaches becomes available and other infrastructural arrangements are made.

Tatkal Seva Identity Cards to Anti-Nationals

4418. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken by Government against the officers responsible for the issue of Tatkal Seva Identity Cards to anti-national persons etc., as reported in the Delhi Star News paper of 19th February, 2001;

(b) if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to make up the loss of about one hundred fifty crores of rupees sustained for issue of the said identity cards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No case of issue of Tatkal Seva Identity Cards to anti-national persons etc. has come to notice of the Government. Hence, the question of taking action against the officers for issue of Identity Cards to anti-national persons, etc. or sustaining any loss on this count does not arise.

Opposition in South Central Railway on Privatisation

4419. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the South Central Railway Employees Sangh has opposed privatisation in the Railways, downsizing of staff, abolition of vacant posts and several other measures being adopted by the Railways; and

(b) what is Government's reaction on these issues and the action Government propose in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal for privatisation in Railways at present. However, certain off-line activities like Catering have been contracted out. As regards downsizing of staff and abolition of vacant posts, the Railways have been adopting modern technology in various facets of railway working which has resulted in reduced requirement of manpower in certain areas, necessitating surrender of posts and utilising the same to create posts in new/expanding areas. The present critical financial position facing Indian Railways also make it imperative to contain staff and other costs. Thus, a review of manpower is being done continuously, keeping in view the operational requirements. Railways have taken initiatives to rightsize the organisation by controlling fresh intake and the reduction in the strength will be through the normal process of superannuation and attrition only, without affecting the existing workforce. The organised labour is also being consulted in the matter from time to time.

Commandos on Rajdhani

4420. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 248, given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 2000 and state by when Government are going to deploy armed commandos in Rajdhani trains for the security of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : The requirement of manpower, training facilities, legal implications etc. are being examined. Hence, the date from which the Commandos will be deployed on trains cannot be indicated at this stage.

Temporary Railway Employees

†4421. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary employees working in the Railways, Zone-wise;

(b) whether any action plan has been prepared by Government to regularize them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of action being taken by Government in this regard ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.